

Bibliography - 1919.

N Y C ILLUSTRATED NEWS

6161 '52 ARVANVI

Africa and the Negro.

Prof. Benjamin Brawley, who is also dean of Morehouse College, Atlanta, has put more solid food for thought into his slender volume, "Africa and the War" (Duffield & Co.) than ordinarily gets into a bulky octavo dissertation. As he says in his preface it does not aim to be a complete analysis of the situation, a history, even in outline, of the war, or of the colonial and native development of the "dark" continent—yet it comes pretty near to being just all that.

One must admire and enjoy the skill of it, even if one can't wholly agree with its conclusions, or admit the accuracy of its political, ethnic, and historical perspective. It rings true, as to intent; a sincere and thoughtful effort to let the light into obscure corners. Its stated purpose is to "set forth the striking features of a definite situation developed by the world conflict, and to indicate the meaning of this for America." Certainly the first part of the task is well done; and it would be rash to assume that the conclusions drawn may not, in time, prove the right ones.

Naturally he envisages the problems of African reconstruction from the point of view of the native rather than that of the intruding white man, or of world politics. That attitude has its full justification and cannot be lightly minimized. But it is not quite broad enough to go 'round. "Let one speak of the native African," says he, "and there rises . . . a picture of an untutored cannibal, savage and degraded. . . . Such a conception does no justice to the ironworkers and weavers of the South and West, to the aspiring Zulus," or the partially educated, mission trained negro boys. Quite true, but the dominance of the intruder remains and is likely to continue. On the other hand he is exactly right in saying that in any regeneration of Africa "we must remember that we are planning not so much for Africans as for human beings, and that, while these people are backward, they still are entitled to the liberty and democracy of which we have heard so much."

This little book is full of suggestion and may well form a basis for much more extended discussion as a step toward truly beneficent far seeing constructive action.

Mrs. Perkins Author

of Cook Book

We are in receipt of a copy of "A Collection of War-Time Recipes," of which Mrs. Blanche Armwood Perkins, is author. Mrs. Perkins, a former Knoxville and well known to

the residents of this section because of her excellent ability as an educator, is now in charge of the New Orleans School of Domestic Science, and her work in the state of Louisiana was the source of favorable comment by many of the leaders of both races in that state, especially during the period of the war.

In a paragraph of the preface the author states, "The need for intelligence in home management in America was never so great as to-day, when the skilled and economical handling of food and fuel is not only necessary for the saving of income and the success of the individual home, but absolutely essential to the saving and success of the Nation."

While we are inclined to read the many excellent recipes from the standpoint of observing the ability of the author, we prize the copy of the booklet highly and hope to at some time have the pleasure of partaking of some of the delicacies, recipes for which appear therein.

SHACKELFORD AUTHOR

OF FIFTEENTH POEMS

The New York Times

New York, Feb. 12. T. H. Shackelford, the promising poetic genius of the race whose recent book of poems, "My County," has received notable commendation, is the author of a series of stirring tributes to the Fighting Fifteenth, beginning with last issue and continuing in the present issue. The News predicts that Shackelford will succeed Dunbar as the race's poet laureate.

A HISTORY OF NEGRO PRESBYTERIANS.

BY TERIANS.

No organization has done more toward the uplift of the Negro race than the Presbyterian Church. This is not to be judged simply by those who bear the name of Presbyterians, for colored Presbyterians constitute only a small percent of these good and efficient men and women of the race who have been made so by this great Church whose educational policy respecting Negro youths is to develop the whole being—head, hand and heart, with emphasis on the latter. The contribution made by the Presbyterian Church toward the Negro's uplift will doubtless be brought out convincingly by the Rev. W. L. Metz, D. D., of Edisto Island, S. C., in a history of Negro Presbyterians which he is writing, for Dr. Metz is a well informed and pleasing writer.

We have received a copy of the "History of the American Negro in the great World War" by that master of oratory and diction W. Allison Sweeney. It is profusely illustrated and not only tells of the trial and tribulations of the colored men who saw service but it portrays what our people have done and accomplished in other conflicts. The book is handsomely bound and will make a most interesting and valuable addition to any person's library. We congratulate the publishers as well as the author upon this valuable addition to current literature and we bespeak for both a most laudable success. It may be obtained by addressing the author at 3328 South Park avenue Chicago, Ill. This work is the most powerful plea for the betterment of the condition of our people in this country and fair play for the American citizen of color that we have yet read.

Historian Sweeney has done the race a signal service by the giving of this contribution to the public. The Library edition should be in every thoughtful man's home. Get other histories if you will but get the Sweeney history also.

N. Y. C. ILLUSTRATED NEWS

AUGUST 7, 1919

"More E. K. Means" (Putnam's) is the second volume of the Rev. Means' Negro tales, so full of that combination of real "niggah-ness" and fun that you laugh all over yourself when you read them. The real Southern Negro has more bubbling humor in him than the famed Irishman. It is a humor of situation and psychology rather than the humor of a quick brain. Dr. Means knows the Southern Negro, and he has only selected, not invented, I am sure, the amusing incidents which make up these ten short stories. The kind of Negro he writes about will soon be gone. But, like heaven, which lies about us in our infancy, a veritable Elysian fields of material must lie about him. And—if one may perpetrate an old pun—he doesn't lie about it.

COUNCIL BLUFF, IAL NONBAREH

AUGUST 23, 1919

In view of the recent clashes between the white and negro races in Washington and Chicago, which have turned attention once more to the perennial negro problem, a recent study of one phase of that problem.

"The Negro Question in the French Revolution," by Dr. Charles O. Hardy of the University of Chicago, is a scholarly presentation of a remote but significant phase of a big question. It deals with an angle of the emancipation movement that hitherto has received little attention, and one about which there has long existed much misunderstanding.

It was but natural, of course, that in the midst of the upheaval incident

to political liberty, which culminated in the French Revolution. Whether you most morkedly in France near the Dr. DuBois or not, whether you agree close of the eighteenth century, therewith him or not, you have got to admit should be, as Doctor Hardy states, that he is the greatest man of African "some enthusiasm from the superficial blood in the world today, and that the parallel between the individual lib-worldwide audience which he will win berty of which the negroes were de-for a book like this will result in in-privied, and the political liberty which calculable benefit to the race. was the fetich of revolutionary France."

The second book, "The Shadow," by Mary White Ovington, chairman of the N. A. A. C. P., is a novel of extraordinary interest. It also will appear in January. It deals with a Southern White girl of aristocratic family who has been left as an infant on the doorstep of a Negro cabin, grows up in this environment believing herself sympathy from the revolutionists. Colored, and then at the age of twenty-Emancipation in San Domingo did one, learns of her real parentage, and come, but more as a result of "the goes out to start life anew in the deadly climate and the "deadlier in-Northern White world. Her adventures subordination of the French troops North and South hold the attention which won for the negroes their free-dom before it was granted."

is not a book of propaganda, but a story of deep human interest and passionate sympathy.

The third book, which will not be ready until next spring, is being prepared by Miss Ovington and M. T. Pritchard, head of the Everett School, of Boston. It will be a school reader specially adapted to the needs of Colored children. Why should these children only study books that describe the achievements of the White Race and never mention the noble deeds and eloquent words of Negroes? The new school reader is an answer to this question. It will introduce Colored children in the elementary schools to the best thoughts and the finest deeds of their own race.

These three books, as soon as they are published, may be obtained from the Crisis, or from any bookseller, or direct from the publishers, Harcourt Brace and Howe, Inc., 1 West 47th St. New York.

It is interesting to note in this recent treatise on the race question as it existed three-quarters of a century before emancipation in America, views of the negro's character and position that are fairly current today. And it is still more interesting to speculate, in view of the racial problems of a non-African nature involved in the national realignments proposed in the league of nations, what means if any may be devised to remove "prejudices" and misunderstandings that are centuries old and apparently deeply imbedded in racial character.—Kansas City Star.

THREE NEW BOOKS

DEALING ON RACE

NEW YORK.—Colored people will be glad to learn that a great New York firm of publishers, Harcourt, Brace and Howe (in which Major J. E. Springarn is a member of the board of directors), will soon publish three books dealing in one way or another with matters of vital interest to the race.

The first of these, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois' "Darkwater," will appear in January. It will be a volume of essays and sketches like the "Souls of Black Folk," but maturer, richer, with a deeper race passion, and with a finer

NEW YORK CITY TRIBUNE

DECEMBER 13, 1919
Poems of Negro Life

FROM THE DESERT. By John Wesley Holloway. The Neale Publishing Company, New York.

There is a mixture of humor and deep religious feeling in these poems by a negro author. Mr. Holloway is at his best when he depicts the foibles and peculiarities of his own race with kindly humor in dialect verse. A number of his poems are also written in regular English, and display a very fair talent for versification.

BOSTON MASS HERALD

DECEMBER 6, 1919
THE CHICAGO RACE RIOTS, by Carl Sandburg (Harcourt, Brace & Howe). An account of the riots of July, 1919; 71 pp.

UNWRITTEN HISTORY

Bishop L. J. Coppin has rendered the race and the Church another great service in his latest book, "Unwritten History," which came from the Book Concern press a few days ago.

This book, of 374 pages, contains, as its title suggests, a large number of facts not found in the already written histories. The facts relate chiefly to the experiences in which the good bishop has shared. Naturally they are facts that have escaped white historians. They are widely separated as to places and times, beginning in 1848, in Maryland, and closing in 1918, in Philadelphia and Chicago.

The bishop gives his recollections of slavery—the "mild" sort in Maryland, which, by the way, produced a Frederick Douglass; and he tells of the early preachers of that state. He tells of the experiences of a young preacher, from the point of view of a mature bishop. This description of his own early days can be read with pleasure and profit by thousands of young men. Like the majority of young ministers, L. J. Coppin started with no particular advantages, except a determined will, by God's help, to succeed. He had but meagre academic training and no systematic theological training except that of the Sunday school, but he became such a hard and conscientious student, graduated from one of the best theological seminaries in America (while others who needed the same kind of training were loafing and gossiping and otherwise wasting their time), became an author of theological books, kept up his studies long years after graduation until he is regarded to-day as one of the best exegetics of the Scriptures in the United States, in spite of his color or his early lack of opportunity.

A chapter, devoted to the World's Columbian Exposition, and the colored exhibit, particularly that of our Church, shows the author's mastery of descriptive English.

Among the "unwritten" facts which the author gives, none are more interesting than those relating to his South African experience. These facts are interesting to us because we read so little in the so-called histories. He astounds us by telling us there is no such African tribe as the Kafirs, about which we learned in our boyhood when we studied in "written" history (written by people who were never as close as three thousand miles to South Africa). Another is about the morality of Africans. He tells us that rape is almost unknown among native Africans. He tells us that a white man in South Africa feels that his daughter is safer among a thousand so-called African Savages than upon the streets of London or Paris, or New York. He tells us of a young white girl whom he met far in the hinterlands, who traveled several days alone to reach a place where hundreds of black Africans were holding a celebration. She rode alone, slept in the woods; had no other white person near. The bishop asked her if she was afraid, and she did not seem to understand what he was talking about. She had never even heard of the possibility of a black man assaulting her on the lonely road. This is "unwritten" history.

The Negro race will never be able to pay Bishop Coppin for this one chapter. It should be read in every home, and in every school. If the Negro learned rape, who taught him?

The bishop gives us an insight into his own domestic life. How a young layman, a young minister and a bishop courted and married has a human interest which all people, young and old, like to read. The young layman won the wife of his youth in 1875 and after eighteen months his loved one was called to her reward. The young minister wooed and in 1881, wed one of America's most brilliant women, who died in 1913, and the bishop again wooed and wed another brilliant lady physician, who now bears the name Mrs. L. J. Coppin.

Many of us know how a layman and a young minister courts. We learn in "Unwritten History" that a bishop's heart, even past 65 years, can be as young as the boy's at 21. As one reads this part of "Unwritten History" he often smiles, but he may sometimes would drop a tear, for he is let into the inner recesses of the heart of a great man, who though master of men, honored, loved and feared, his heart is human and his home his earthly heaven. The bishop's poetic genius is shown in the pathetic poem upon his first brief matrimonial experience, ending in the death of his beloved wife and his baby boy—Octavious V. Catto Coppin.

The book has five illustrations—the bishop himself; Mrs. L. J. Coppin I, II and III as they looked when they wed, and Theodosia Coppin, the Bishop's three-year-old daughter, the joy of his later days.

The book has 374 pages, in large, readable type, on good paper; is well bound and sells for \$1.50 per 15c. for mailing—total \$1.65. The A. M. E. Book Concern, 631 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pa., are publishers.

The First Negro Artillery Brigade

New book just out, with many thrilling stories of the World Great War, price 50c.

Write for agents' special offer.

By Harold Lee Franklin, 55 S. Jackson St., Atlanta, Ga.

The hero of *Blood and Sand*, Juan Gallardo, is the son of poor and ignorant parents in Seville. From a very early age he has wandered over the city and neighboring country, visiting the slaughtering-houses, bull-baitings and provincial bull-fights. He does not pass through the usual lower ranks of his profession, but makes his first appearance as a full-fledged torero, delighting vast crowds by his strength and daring. He buys fine clothes, a house for his mother, builds a great mansion, marries Carmen, a childhood playmate, then buys a country estate and goes into stock-raising. He frequents the club of the cattle-breeding nobility, attracts the attention of the aristocracy. Almost too insistent is he to tell us that Hawthorne and his community were not dissociated. One wonders if evidences of gloom were not traceable to the influence of the "graveyard poets" that furnished some of his reading during the Salem days. In the analysis of *The House of Seven Gables*, new vistas are pointed out, though its position before the discussion of *The Scarlet Letter* may lead some into anachronisms. In the matter of chronology, Dr. Woodberry has been too rigidly exclusive—not a date appears in his book. His ignoring Hawthorne's contribution to the short story is a serious omission; it does not suffice that such a relationship was pointed out in his earlier study of Hawthorne. As sixteen years have elapsed since that book was published, it is well to inquire whether any alterations of judgment occur. The later book, subdued in tone, barely supplements that incisive, enthusiastic study. The idea of Hawthorne's provinciality in his sketches has been here extended to cover his major work as well. Hawthorne wrote all his books "so to speak, from his own generation." His "sentimentality" further temporizes them. New points considered are: Hawthorne's "wavering of faith in his own imagination" when he has recourse to the "grain of salt" that makes for "a certain arbitrariness in the general plot of *The Scarlet Letter*"; the observation that his being primarily an artist and less competent in meditation, impaired his expression of thought; and the information that his grievance against Salem was almost as much against the world that made him "earn his bread by other means than his creative talent."

NEW YORK CITY TIMES

OCTOBER 19, 1919

GOD'S DEALINGS WITH THE NEGRO. By R. Mayers. 12mo. Boston: Richard Badger.

An account of the treatment of the negro.

NOVEMBER 8, 1919

WOMEN PUBLISH BOOK OF NEGRO MELODIES

As part of its work, the section on music of the Department of Religious Education of the Young Women's Christian Association is compiling a book of negro melodies suitable for girls' voices. This book will also contain some hymns which have proved themselves to be universal favorites among schoolgirls. The origin and the interpretation of the negro melodies will also be included, that the girls who sing them may fully appreciate their charm.

The reason for compiling this book is that such songs are prepared, as a rule, for men's voices, the range of notes being difficult for the voices of growing girls.

BOOK REVIEWS

SHODDYISM CALLED HISTORY

The American Negro in the Great World War—By W. Allison Sweeney. G. G. Sapp, Chicago, Ill., 1919.

The American Negro in the World War—By Emmett J. Scott. The Negro Historical Pub. Co., Washington, D. C., 1919.

The World War for Human Rights (Negro Soldier in Our War)—By Kelly Miller. Austin Jenkins Co., Washington, D. C., 1919.

History at best is a fallacy. It is a record of only the most exceptional of human phenomena. A history true in every sense is not to be found on the shelves. Those who have written history have sought almost always to justify a stirring belief, or to subserve a sentimental interest in behalf of some antecedent impression or current conviction. The record of history, the lesson of human experience, can be written only by those who have no interest to subserve except the truth. They must possess absolutely no desire to justify a previous belief. The historical method is one of the most serious imperfections of human reasoning.

The subjects of this review by no means, however, merit such an introductory criticism, since they are not, in fact, histories at all. They are picture books, containing rambling narratives of some of the principle experiences of the Negro in the great war, at home and abroad, arranged according to topics. The materials are drawn from military orders, personal observations, but generally from newspapers. It is, therefore, often inaccurate. Each of the three books is written in easy style, though Kelly Miller and Sweeney often burst into affected rhetorical persiflage. The three authors are one in their praise of the loyalty of the Negro, whatever the attitude of the government. They jointly commit the fallacy of assuming that liberty and freedom are the inevitable rewards of bearing arms in war time.

Emmett J. Scott was a special assistant to the Secretary of War, during the participation of the United States in the conflict. As a matter of fact he was little more than a "morale officer," a special office designed to keep the Negro people contented and fooled about the real issues of the conflict with respect to themselves. Mr. Scott had first hand access to the sources of material. He has selected by no means all the matter available from the War Department, however, nor has he treated the material selected with success. The outstanding purpose of the book seems to be a vindication of Scott himself. W. Allison Sweeney is the contributing Editor of the *Chicago Defender*. His chief source of material was the newspapers and the views of personal correspondents. Kelly Miller was the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of Howard University when his book was written. Neither one of these works is a credit to scholarship. They are designed, apparently, to cater to the great mass of half educated Negroes, whose racial consciousness would impel them to buy "Negro Histories," whatever the merits of the matter between the covers.

Mr. Sweeney's book treats of the strength of German militarism; America's entrance into the war; the ready response of the Negro to the draft; previous wars in which the Negro figured; unqualified loyalty of the black man; the Negro fighting units, the 92d Division, the 369th, 370th, 371st and 372d Infantries; the Service of Supply; the war welfare agencies and the Negro; and reconstruction and the new Negro. Most of the discussion is either sentimental, controversial or hyperbolic. Of the twenty-three chapters, as a sample of the subject matter, one contains a roster of Negro officers commissioned at Des Moines, while another full chapter is in the form of a newspaper account, taken from the *New York World*. The best piece of work in Mr. Sweeney's book is a report of the operations of the 8th Illinois Infantry, contributed by Captain John H. Patton. Much of the value of the book is lessened when the author seeks to engage in controversy and blind prophecy. Mr. Sweeney has no con-

ception whatever of reconstruction and the new Negro. He abounds in his praise of such lovers of Negro ignorance as Colonel William Haywood, and of such hypocrites as Woodrow Wilson. Mr. Sweeney ends his book by voicing the delusion that out of war a new nation has emerged.

Emmett J. Scott, in seeking to vindicate himself, has exhibited his own servility—how he was recommended for his position by the basest of Negro traitors, Robert Russa Moton, and how acceptable he was to the reactionary forces of the nation. Mr. Scott's treatment and subject matter are not much different from that of Mr. Sweeney, but Mr. Scott is less controversial. Most of his matter, as does that of Mr. Sweeney, belongs in the appendix rather than in the body of the work. Again, Mr. Scott often arrogates to himself more credit than he is due. He leads the reader to believe that he was responsible in large measure for the fact of Negro officers, see page 62. Mr. Scott also perpetrates the lie in the form of a War Department Bulletin that the Negro was not discriminated against in the draft. He cites many injustices towards the black soldiers but seldom tells what he did to correct them, other than answer letters stating that "requests for investigations will be cheerfully complied with." Scott's correspondence is of little value. The natural inference is that he would be holding his position, even today, whatever unjust policy the War Department might have practiced toward the Negro. The book is written in simple style, but the author often digresses from the conventional third person to emphasize a statement by using the first. Lieutenant T. T. Thompson has contributed material of value to this work. Where the author indulges in opinion, he reflects the most reactionary attitude. He accepts and praises the doctrine that "rights and privileges" are dependent upon the "duties and responsibilities" of citizenship. He does not fathom the biological analogy that a child race, like the human child, possesses "rights, privileges, powers, and immunities" long before it is able to bear the burden of "duties and responsibilities"; that biologically "duties and responsibilities" are dependent upon "rights and privileges." Mr. Scott also fails to state that the Negro soldier is in a worse plight at the end of the war than when the author took up his position as special assistant to Secretary Baker.

Kelly Miller devotes twenty-two chapters of his work to general aspects of the war, without references to the Negro. He adds a chapter, however, on "The Negro in the World War" and "The Disgrace of Democracy," an open letter to Woodrow Wilson. The author is guilty of a rather bold piece of trickery when he places on the back cover of his book the title: "Negro Soldier in Our War." This is an unpardonable piece of criminal camouflage, because only the merest fraction of his book is devoted to the Negro. Kelly Miller's treatment of general aspects of the war reads like the column of a magazine section of a Sunday newspaper. But a return to the Negro question finds him controversial, militant and committing the usual fallacy of history. His treatment abounds in error, both as to fact and opinion. In speaking of the Des Moines camp and colored officers, Mr. Miller says that the camp was an "honor." Provision for the Des Moines camp was made in May, 1917. In placing credit for the camp, the author says: "It is probable that the honor belongs as much to Henry Johnson and Needham Roberts as to anyone else." Then follows a reference to the citation of these two men for gallantry. The writer then adds, see page 458: "Whether this citation arrived on May 19th, 1917 by design or by accident, it served the purpose of dissolving completely all opposition to the idea of training Negroes to halt the Hun. Immediately thereafter, the War Department created a training camp for educated Negroes at Fort Des Moines, Iowa." As a matter of fact, the exploit of these two heroes took place a year later than the above date and nearly a year after the Des Moines camp became a so-called "honor" to the Negro. Dean Miller has done his fast waning

reputation great harm in his latest publication.

Neither of these works can be recommended for either information or presentation. They are neither scientific nor scholarly. They leave untold the bitter, but whole truth, about what the soldiers suffered and endured in the great conflict. They picture the Negro as one loyal and willing to fight, because he owes much to a great country. They omit to state the fact that over one hundred thousand of the three hundred and fifty thousand black conscripts were illiterate, because their country denies them opportunity. But illiterate men make slavish soldiers, and slavish soldiers are the best soldiers. A history of the Negro in the recent war is yet to be written.

—LIEUT. WM. N. COLSON.

"The Problem", a military drama has been presented by E. Grant Gilmore and colored actors, at the Academy of Music, Philadelphia.

Negroes in Baltimore, Md. have written the book, lyrics, and music of "That's the Time" which has been produced by fifty colored actors at Albaugh's Theater.

---The Crisis Dec., 1919 p. 80.

NYC POST

MARCH 27, 1919

Any one with a spirit of fair mindedness will become thoroughly angry in reading "The Truth About Lynching and the Negro in the South," by Winfield H. Collins (Neale: \$1.25 net). Of "the truth" there is hardly enough to give the book a patchy surface plausibility. His justification for lynching is the familiar one. The negro, "but lately removed from the jungle," has certain criminal characteristics stronger than in any other race; he is "infinitely lacking" in high mental, moral, and emotional qualities; "hence lynching in order to hold in check the negro in the South." A mode of punishment that would not suit whites (as burning at the stake, we presume), says this humane author, "may well be suited to the negro." He has no remedy for lynching. Indeed, he seems to believe any remedy would be dangerous. In one chapter he tries to show that the negro exhibits an appalling criminality: he likes to use the word "utter," as in speaking of "utter lack of chastity," and "utter lack of veracity." Later he gives the stock arguments for segregation, and tries to show that the negro has been an economic failure. There is scarce a word in recognition of the many virtues of the negro, of the high potentialities he has shown, or of the responsibility of white society for most of his failings. Even the narrowest-minded of negrophobes usually

hav, the grace to blush at and condemn what the author calls "interesting lynchings," that is, burnings; this book simply comments that barbarous criminals require "barbarous laws."